kei kusunoki
kaoru ohashi
Diabolo
1
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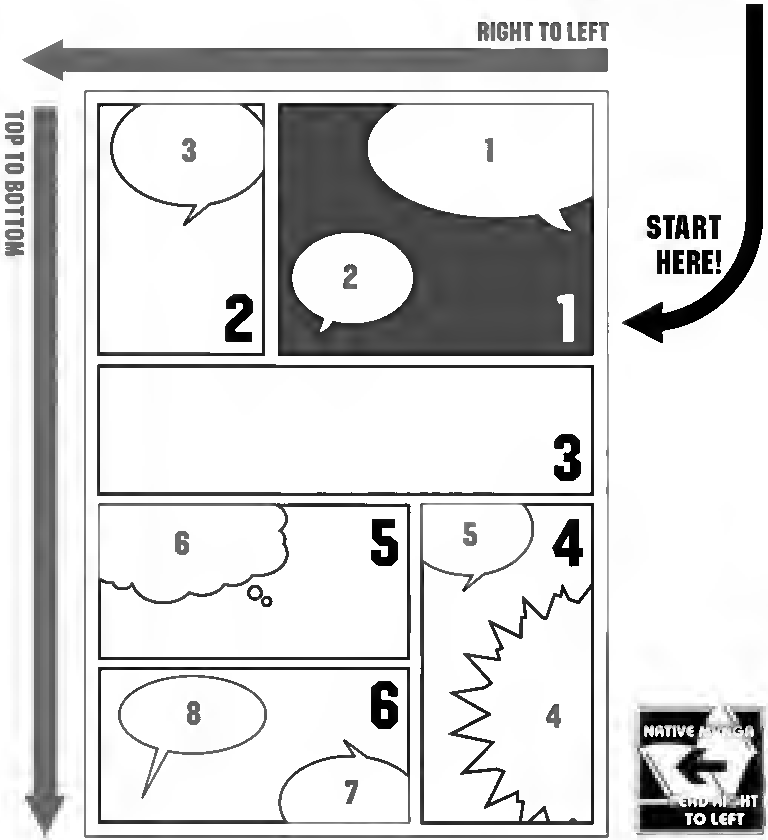
THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL IS READ IN ITS NATIVE FORMAT

READ EACH PANEL FROM RIGHT TO LEFT, TOP TO BOTTOM SEE HOW IT'S DONE BELOW!



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Diabolo
Conception I

COME OVER HERE, LITTLE BOYS.
THIS WAY...
IF WE DO WHAT YOU SAY, WILL YOU REALLY SAVE MIO?
I WILL.
I PROMISE... I'LL GRANT YOUR WISH.
NOW...

SO, GET THIS. TEN YEARS AGO...
...THERE WAS A MURDER RIGHT HERE IN THIS TOWN.
AND IT WAS COMMITTED BY CHILDREN... BACK WHEN SUCH A THING WASN'T SO COMMON.
WHAT HAPPENED?
TWO BOYS... I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS THEIR SISTER OR THEIR COUSIN, BUT THEY KILLED A LITTLE GIRL.
REALLY? THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE EVER ABOUT IT.
FOR REALS?
HMH. DIDN'T KNOW 'BOUT IT.
TRUTH IS, THE GIRL'S BODY WAS NEVER FOUND...BUT THERE WAS LOTS OF BLOOD AT THE SCENE, SO THERE'S NOT MUCH HOPE SHE SURVIVED.
WEIRD!
I'VE LIVED HERE FOREVER, TOO.

C'MON YOU KNOW THOSE BOYS DID IT!
YEAH. AND THANKS TO THE LAW, THEY GOT OFF ON A TECHNICALITY!
RIGHT. IN THE EYES OF THE LAW, NO BODY... NO CRIME.
THEN THEY MOVED AND NO ONE'S SEEN THEM SINCE. GONE!
HMM... DEVILS, AREN'T THEY?
MAKES YOU WONDER WHAT KIND OF ADULTS THEY'VE BECOME.
THEY WOULDN'T BE ADULTS YET.
THEY WERE PRETTY YOUNG AT THE TIME.
HOW OLD..
..WOULD THEY BE, NOW?
SAME AGE AS US...
...SEVEN-TEEN.

...about how my body is... changing.
I've got real things to worry about. Not sick rumors
I can't tell anyone...
WAIT, CHIAKI! THERE'S MORE! IT'S CRAZY!
HEY. I GOTTA GO.
THEY WERE ONLY SEVEN WHEN THEY MURDERED THE GIRL? THAT'S AWFUL!
SHE'S ALWAYS SO LOW-KEY, AND STUFF.
WHAT'S CHIAKI'S DEAL? SHE SEEMS REALLY OUT OF IT.

TRRRR
CLICK
Some boyfriend I ever around when I need you!
MMM!
CMON!
CHIAKI.
MAKO...!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I KNOW YOU'RE WORRIED. I FEEL LIKE IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
I_

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, MAKO.
Mako was the one who introduced me to "him."
He was really cool, and I was totally into him, but...
...right now...
I GUESS PEOPLE GET BUSY, DON'T THEY? WHATEVER.
IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME... BUT...
HEY, CHIAKI
IF YOU NEED TO TALK... PLEASE, JUST LET ME KNOW.
THANK YOU.
I'm a month late...

AND WHILE IT'S SAFE TO SAY MY PARENTS HAVE BOUGHT THE HOME OF THEIR DREAMS...
...they're always working so they can pay it off

I don't know about it though I get weird vibes from the place
And the building's more than half vacant
1

끼우
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING. OUT OF SERVICE?
끼우 끼우
? ?
끼우 끼우
UGH... SUCH A PAIN GETTING TO THE TENTH FLOOR.
Uhh... My stomach. It hurts...
Oww... I almost hope it is a miscarriage.
w a a h!
w a a h!

THERE, THERE.
PLEASE DON'T CRY.
あーん
SHHH-HHH.
THERE, THERE, LITTLE BABY, THERE, THERE.
The newlyweds on the 4th floor...
The husband's never home and the kid's always crying!
Isn't that postpartum depression?
THERE... THERE...

EEK...!
WOOF WOOF!
WOOF WOOF!
GARBAGE? GROSS...
EEW! WHAT IS THAT?!
GET BACK IN HERE, KING!
SHH!
BOOF
MY LIFE SUCKS!!
I hate being alone here!
UGH...
WHAT THE HELL?!
Pets aren't allowed here!
Even though it was small, and run down, it was better at the old apartment.

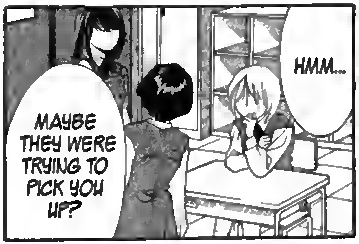
HEY, KIO...!
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF CALM DOWN.
I WISH EVERYTHING WOULD DISAPPEAR!!!

W-WHO ARE YOU...?
HEY, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.
A GIRL LIKE YOU MAKES A PERFECT TARGET, YOU KNOW.
RIGHT, RAI? YOU SNIFFED HER OUT, AFTER ALL, DIDN'T YOU?
YES, I COULD SMELL HER... BLOOD.
I APOLOGIZE IF REN STARTLED YOU.

SEE, ABOUT THAT BLOOD...
Crap! My period? It started?
OOH--SHE'S A PLAYER!
GIRLS LIKE HER ARE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE.
Blood...?
LOOK AT THIS GIRL.
NOTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT, REN
WHAT'S GOING ON?
UH... WEIRD GUY..THERE WAS THIS...!
キミキミK
YOU PERVERT! HELP!
WHAT THE...?

HOLD ON A MINUTE. CALM DOWN. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHHH, YES. IM...IM SORRY.
I'VE GOT TO.. I'VE...
But they were just here!
BATHROOM.
BATHROOM.
I don't know why, but..
they scared me
I wonder who they were?
How embarrassing.
Those guys...they looked like 'out-of-towners.'
Whatever. I'm just glad..
...I wasn't pregnant.

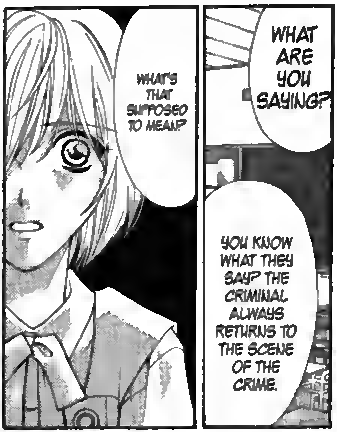
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE TEN YEARS, DOES IT?

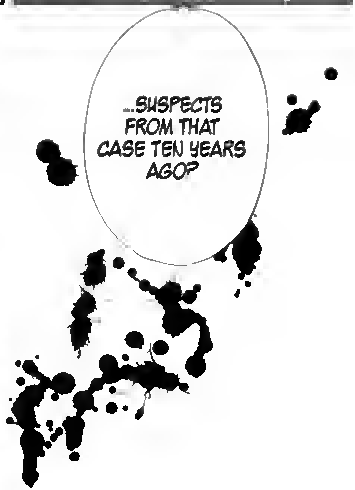

HMM...
MAYBE THEY WERE TRYING TO PICK YOU UP?

They just up and came out of nowhere. I don't like being scared.
IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.

WHAT IF THEY'RE THE.. YOU KNOW...

WEIRD PAIR. GOTTA CATCH MY BREATH.

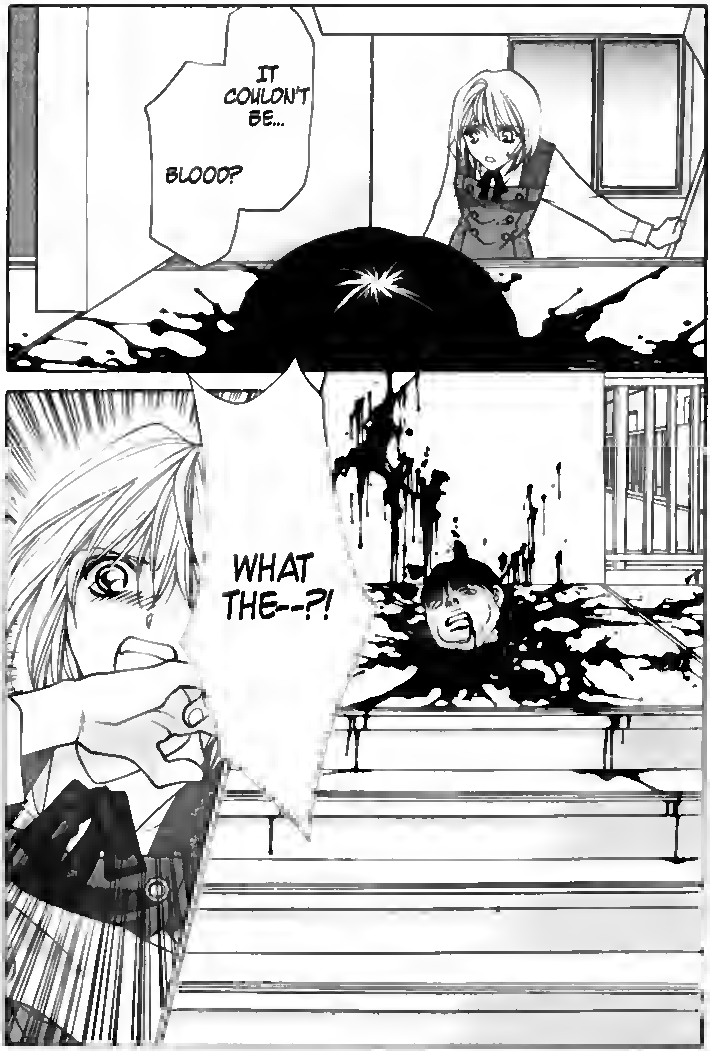

WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY? THE CRIMINAL ALWAYS RETURNS TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.


...SUSPECTS FROM THAT CASE TEN YEARS AGO?

REMEMBER THAT CASE WE WERE TALKING ABOUT? THE LITTLE GIRL THAT DIED? YOUR CONDO WAS BUILT ON THE LOT WHERE THEY THINK IT HAPPENED.
WHA--?
YEAH. DO YOU EVER SEE GHOSTS?
MAYBE THERE'S A CORPSE BURIED UNDER YOUR BUILDING.
STOP IT! THE BASEMENT'S A PARKING GARAGE NOW!
THERE ARE NO CORPSES AT THE CONDO!
IDIOTS!
WE WERE JUST KIDDIN'!

NO, I'M NOT SCARED.
I'M FINE. THANKS, MAKO.
IF YOU'RE SCARED, I CAN STAY OVER.
YOU OKAY, CHIAKI?
WHAT'S WRONG?
N-NOTHING. JUST THE CRAMPS.
I'll just have to put up with the pain
Thank God I'm not pregnant
CHIAKI...
OH, MAKO...
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE...

The only one who worries about me
Another pet?
THIS SUCKS.
Out of Service
What's that smell?
THIS IS A NEW BUILDING!!
HOW CAN IT NOT WORK?


IT COULDN'T BE...
BLOOD?
WHAT THE--?!

OH, MY GOD...!
HELP!
SOMEBODY!
The dog killed its owner..?
AAH!

ガブッ
What...?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, YOUNG LADY?
.....!
PLEASE...DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT DOG! HURRY, OR...!
NO! YOUR ARM!
IT'S OKAY. I'M THE SHIELD OF DEFENSE.
THE SWORD OF OFFENSE IS...

THAT'S MY SPECIALTY!
YELP!

AAH!
SUPER KICK
YEAH RIGHT! LOOK WHO'S TALKING! I THINK YOU CAN LET GO OF HER NOW.
IT'S BETTER IF YOU LOOK THE OTHER WAY. REI'S UNREFINED. YOU KNOW NOT ONE TO CARE MUCH ABOUT THE FEMININE SENSIBILITIES.
E-E-
ENOUGH ALREADY! WHO ARE YOU?!

WELL, WE'RE DIABOLO, YOU KNOW.

Devils...?
DON'T MESS WITH ME!
...PROTECTED OR...
CALM DOWN. PLEASE.
HOW ABOUT IT, RAI?
IT'S VERY DIFFICULT. THE SCENT OF BLOOD IS TOO STRONG AND...
What...?
HMM? SO EVEN YOUR SENSE OF SMELL GETS OVERWHELMED?
THE ENTITY THAT IS YOU...
SHOULD YOU BE...
HUNTED? I WONDER.

Oh my God. What is...
...these people...
really aren't human...!?
HEY! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
YOU!
WHAT THE HELL JUST HAPPENED?
POLICE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?
I couldn't say anything about those guys to the cops.

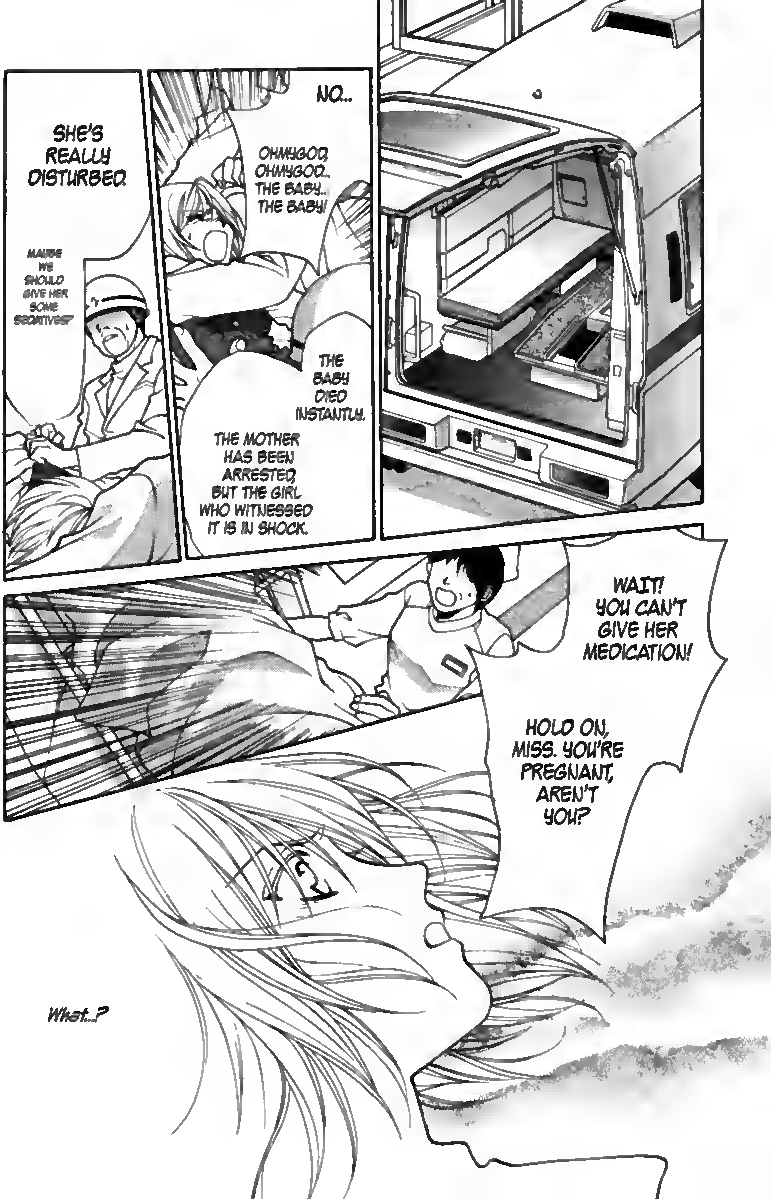
Something just held me back.
HEY, MOM.
YOU KNOW... I'VE BEEN THINKING-- THIS CONDO... IT'S KINDA WEIRD
I...I WISH WE COULD MOVE. I WOULDN'T MIND A SMALLER PLACE, YOU KNOW I JUST DON'T WANT TO BE HERE ANYMORE
Ever since we moved here...I don't know, it's just...strange. Uncomfortable.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOUR FATHER AND I HAVE BEEN WORKING VERY HARD FOR THIS PLACE. PLEASE DON'T BE SELFISH.
BESIDES, THIS PLACE WOULDN'T BE EASY TO SELL, THANKS TO THAT INCIDENT.

THIS IS OUR HOUSE. WE WANT YOU TO RESPECT THAT.
GO NOW, CHIAKI.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
カタ。
First worrying if I was pregnant or not, and now this!
This has got me freaked.
Whew...

I've got to tell her everything.
I need to talk to Maka.
I need to talk about him.
From my suspicions about pregnancy to those weird kids, those devils...
I need someone to talk to

The baby from the 4th floor sounds like he's got healthy lungs this morning.
...is getting closer...?
It seems like the crying!
WAAAH!
WAAAH!

ハッチャケ
キャアアアア


NO...
OHMYGOD, OHMYGOD... THE BABY... THE BABY!
THE BABY DIED INSTANTLY.
THE MOTHER HAS BEEN ARRESTED, BUT THE GIRL WHO WITNESSED IT IS IN SHOCK.
SHE'S REALLY DISTURBED.
MAYBE WE SHOULD GIVE HER SOME SEDATIVES?
WAIT! YOU CAN'T GIVE HER MEDICATION!
HOLD ON, MISS. YOU'RE PREGNANT, AREN'T YOU?
What...?

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE...!
I HAD MY PERIOD!
YOUR BELLY...IT LOOKS ABOUT... FOUR MONTHS? YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FEEL THE SIGNS, TOO. DO YOU KNOW WHO THE FATHER IS?
MAYBE WE SHOULD CONTACT HER PARENTS.
NO...!
STOP!
THE BLOOD... IT WASN'T FROM YOUR PERIOD.
IT'S SOMETHING THAT HAPPENS EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE DURING THE EARLY STAGES OF PREGNANCY.
YOU CAME CLOSE TO A MISCARRIAGE AND THAT'S WHY YOU LOST BLOOD, BUT...
...I BELIEVE YOUR BABY IS GOING TO BE FINE.

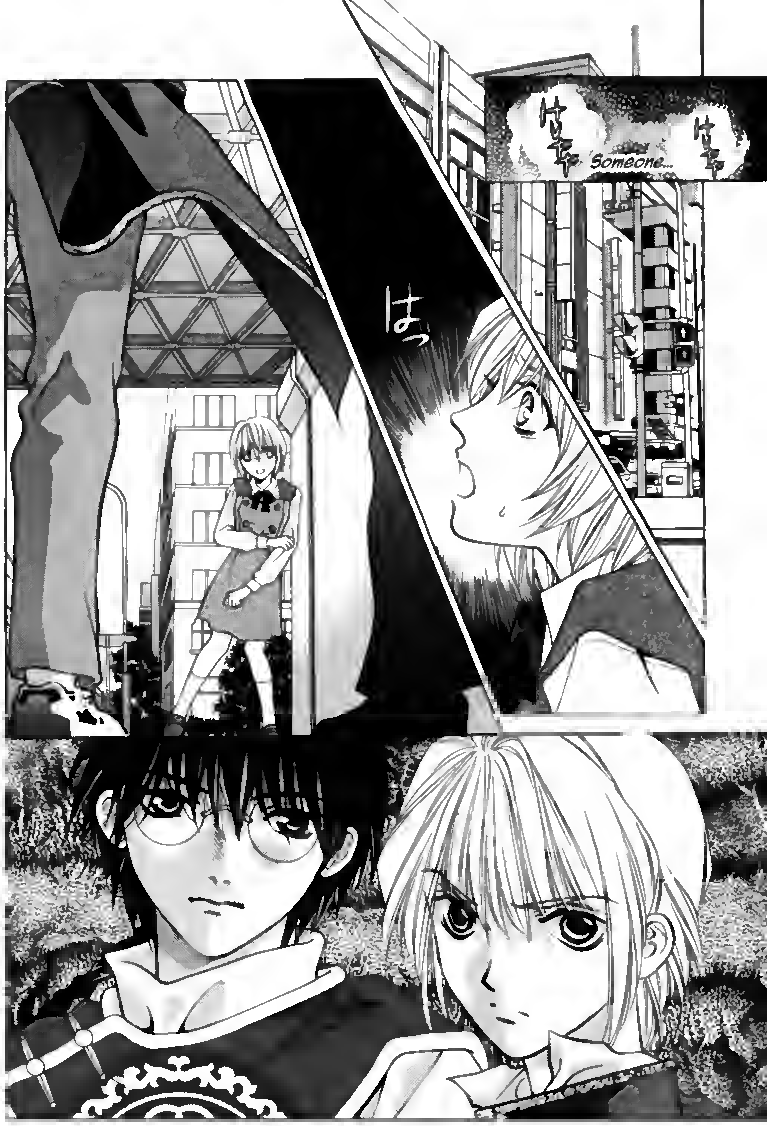
Oh, no. What'll I do?
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WILL DO?
Why can't I contact him?
YOU LOOK PRETTY YOUNG. YOU'RE STILL IN SCHOOL, AREN'T YOU?
DO YOU KNOW WHO THE FATHER
JUST TO CONFIRM, WE'LL NEED TO DO AN ULTRASOUND

OH MY GOD. WHAT IS IT?
IS IT ALIVE?
ヒィ!
ヒィ!
ヒィ!

EE...
AH!
A baby without a head?!
AAHH...!!
THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.
THE FETUS IS ALIVE...
...BUT IT'S HEAD IS COMPLETELY GONE!
THE PATIENT IS GONE!
DOCTOR!
WE NEED TO CONTACT HER PARENTS.
WHAT DO WE DO...?

This has got to be a dream!
Huff, Huff
A nightmare!
Oh, God. What's inside me?
YES... THE STRAY SHEEP.
SHE'S COMING.
Somebody save me! God. Devil. I DON'T CARE!

Diabolo
Conception II


Someone...
はっ

O-O-O..!
Devil!
NO...
"I feel like this has happened before."
The feeling of being chased and..
EEE...!
Save me!

SAVE ME!
SAVE ME...!
MA... MAKO.
CHIAKI. ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL.
NO...!
HMMM. IT'S ALL RIGHT. AT ANY RATE, WE SHOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH YOUR PARENTS AND...
HERE. HAVE SOME TEA.
IM SICK OF THIS ALREADY!
I WANT TO DIE! EVERYONE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
DO YOU FEEL BETTER NOW?

YOU KNOW, CHIAKI, YOUR PARENTS ASKED ME TO LOOK FOR YOU.
PLEASE. CALM DOWN. NOW, LET'S GO HOME.
I didn't know my parents knew about Mako.
I APPRECIATE THAT, MAKO.
ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT'S WRONG, CHIAKI?
THERE'S A WEIRD SHADOW ON THE CONDO.
IT'S JUST THE SHADOW FROM AN ELECTRIC POLE.

CHIAKI!
YOU HAD US WORRIED!
MOM...
COME HERE.
IT'S NOT JUST YOUR BODY ANYMORE
WHAT...?
MOM, YOU KNEW?
HOW?
AFTER ALL, WE ARE YOUR PARENTS.

OPEN UP!
WHY ARE YOU LOCKING ME IN!
ARE YOU MAD BECAUSE I GOT PREG-NANT? IM SORRY, BUT..
NO.
IT'S TO PROTECT YOU.
WE HAVE TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU UNTIL IT'S BORN.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? N...NO!
I WON'T GIVE BIRTH TO IT! I DON'T WANT TO!
PLEASE...
SHUT UP!

YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE BIRTH TO OUR CHILD!
IT'S FOR YOUR SAKE, CHIAKI.
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU!
"Our child"...?
DAD...?
He won't answer, but...
Well, he is the father...!
TRRRR
TRRR
WHY, ALL OF A SUDDEN...!
YOU'VE IGNORED ME ALL THIS TIME!
LET ME OUT! OPEN UP!
MAKO, HELP ME!

What happened to him? He just disappeared.
AS IF EH?
?!
Wait. That's a cell phone ringing?
?
Where's it coming from?
I thought it was just that I couldn't get a hold of him, but..
When was the last time I saw him...?
The last..

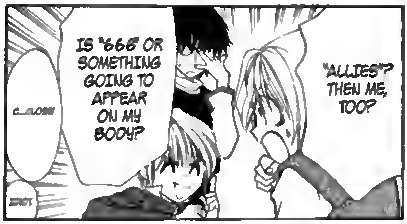
EEE....
WHY...
THIS IS THE 10TH FLOOR, YOU KNOW!
STOP THIS ALREADY!
WHY DOES THIS ONLY HAPPEN TO ME...?
DISAPPEAR!
ARE YOU SURE?
WE ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN END THIS NIGHTMARE.
.....

SO...
...YOU'VE DECIDED TO HUNT ME, RIGHT?
ガラ...
FINE, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
AFTER ALL, WITH A BODY LIKE THIS...
THIS...
...PATHETIC, INSIGNIFICANT LIFE.

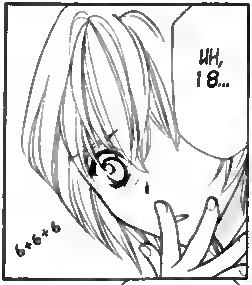
NO!
MMPH...!
THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE DEVILS.
PEOPLE HAVE TOLD US THAT FOR TEN YEARS.
HOW WAS IT, REN?
YOU SAID TO DO WHATEVER I WANTED SO...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
No Panties
PERVERT! DEVIL!

The crime from ten years ago...!
OH...
IT WAS YOU GUYS AFTER ALL!
THAT'S RIGHT. THE HEINOUS PAIR FROM T-AT HORRIBLE DAY.
PEOPLE WE DIDN'T KNOW THREW ROCKS AT US.
HUMILIATED US, ASSAULTED US....
EVEN THOSE CLOSE TO US SUSPECTED AND HATED US.
BUT THEN-- SUDDENLY-- WE REALIZED WE HAD INHUMAN POWERS.
INTERESTING, ISN'T IT?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRADE LIVES?
MIO WAS OUR COUSIN. SHE WAS LIKE A SISTER TO US. SHE DISAPPEARED SO LONG AGO.
WE SEARCH FOR HER TO THIS DAY.
WE HAVEN'T KILLED ANYONE.

IM...SORRY.
I HAD NO IDEA AND..
DON'T CRY.
WHY...
...IT'S SO SAD.
THIS IS THEIR GAME, YOU KNOW.
JEHOVA
MESSIAH


IS "666" OR SOMETHING GOING TO APPEAR ON MY BODY?
C...CLOSE!
EXIST
"ALLIES"? THEN ME, TOO?

THE DIABOLO.
THEY'RE PLEASED BECAUSE THEY'RE INCREASING THEIR ALLIES.
"THEM"?


UH, 18...
6+6+6

WHY DON'T YOU ADD UP THOSE NUMBERS?

IT WAS CHANCE THAT WE RECEIVED THE DEVILS' POWERS WHILE STILL IN OUR HUMAN FORMS AND SOULS.
THAT'S WHY BEFORE WE TURN 18, WITH THESE POWERS...
WHEN WE TURN 18 WE'LL CHANGE INTO SOMETHING ELSE, SOMETHING THAT'S NOT HUMAN.
BUT 17 IS WHEN OUR POWERS ARE AT THEIR PEAK... AT GREAT EXPENSE.

...WE MUST GET MIO BACK, EVEN IF IT MEANS KILLING EACH OTHER!
WHAT?
I WISH I HAD THAT KIND OF COURAGE.
YOU DO.
YOU'RE DETERMINED ABOUT YOU?
YOU WON'T GIVE UP NO MATTER WHAT I CAN TELL.

Oh no. I'm laughing...
YES, HA HA. THAT'S TRUE.
And inviting us into your bedroom.
YOU'RE TALKING TO US...
...US DEVILS!
IT'S PART OF THE RITUAL.
YOU'VE BEEN CAUGHT IN THEIR SNARE. THERE'S SOMEONE WHO LED YOU THERE
BUT WHY HAVE YOU AND I BEEN CHOSEN AS COMRADES?
CHIAKI!
IS SOMEONE IN THERE?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHO DID THIS? HOW DO YOU KNOW?
WHA...!
NO, THIS IS SERIOUS!
I FOUND OUT JUST NOW WHEN I KISSED YOU, BUT...
CATCH YOUR BREATH.

SO, THEY'VE COME.
WHAT? WAIT A MINUTE, THOSE ARE MY PARENTS.
THEY'VE BEEN ACTING WEIRD LATELY; IT COULDN'T BE...
CHIAKI!!
WHO ARE YOU?! GET AWAY FROM MY DAUGHTER!
I WON'T LET YOU GET IN THE WAY!
STOP IT, DAD!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. GET BACK.
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF HURTING YOUR PARENTS--

.....!
EEK...
IT'S NO USE.

YOU'RE OUT OF LUCK. I'M IMMUNE TO YOUR ATTACKS.
TAKE THIS!
STOP IT...!
THEY'RE MY PARENTS! PLEASE DON'T KILL THEM!

FINALLY FOUND YOU!
TURNED INTO MY TYPE OF GIRL... CUTE, EH?!
MA...
MAKO?
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP! THIS CONDO'S CURSED!
ALL THE TENANTS WILL GO CRAZY AND DIE!
STOP IT! DON'T DISRUPT THE RITUAL!
DAD!

THE GUY WHO RAPED YOU AND THE GUY WITH THE DOG WHO GOT HIS JOLLIES WATCHING, TOO!
AND THE LADY WITH POST-PARTUM DEPRESSION WHO IGNORED YOUR SCREAMS...!
What...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I KILLED THEM!
Rape?
Screams?
Mine?
WE'RE THE ONES WHO CURSED THEM!
SO THAT WE COULD LIVE TOGETHER HAPPILY AS A FAMILY ONCE MORE!

I...NO!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO REMEMBER IT, CHIAKI.
SOON, YOU WILL BE--
That time...
I was...
By that man... No!
I was...!

WAIT A MINUTE!
HERE WE GO, RAI!
OK! READY WHEN YOU ARE!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT...
... HOW YOU CHANGED US!

NEMA

HA HA.
YOU WOULD REBEL AGAINST ME WITH THE POWERS I HAVE GRANTED YOU?
YOU, WHO KNOW NO GRATITUDE OR HONOR.

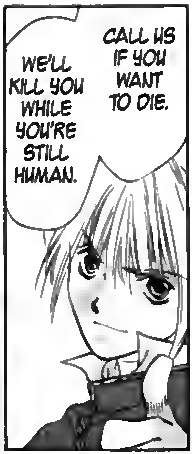
BUT IT SEEMS IT MAY BECOME AN AMUSING GAME.
AND I SHALL LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
RAI, YOU OKAY?
OF COURSE. I AM THE SHIELD, YOU KNOW.
WE'RE OKAY... BECAUSE WE'RE MONSTERS.
DON'T SAY STUPID THINGS.

PROMISE ME.
WHEN I TURN 18... AND I FORGET MY HUMAN SOUL AND BECOME SOMETHING PURELY EVIL....
I KNOW, REN.
I WILL KILL YOU BEFORE YOU CHANGE. AND YOU....
...PLEASE KILL ME... WHILE I'M STILL HUMAN.
That is our pledge.

I DON'T KNOW. THE RITUAL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED.
THINGS WILL PROBABLY GO BACK TO NORMAL.
IT LEFT... IT DISAPPEARED.
To Roll the devils in the end...
IS IT OVER ALREADY? ARE MY PARENTS' GOING TO BE ENGULFED BY THEIR SINS?
YOUR NAMES...
PLEASE TELL THEM TO ME.
SOMETHING SO STRANGE LIKE THIS.
AND NO ONE WILL BELIEVE ANY OF THIS HAPPENED, WILL THEY?

I'M REN.
AND I'M RAI.
IS THERE A CHANCE WE'LL MEET AGAIN?

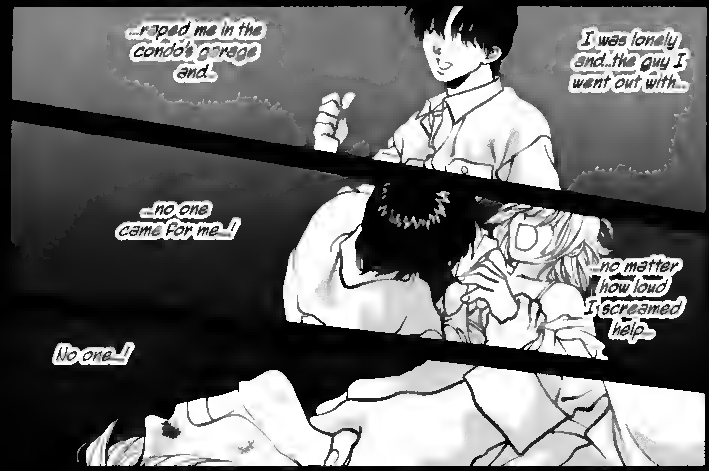
YOU'RE HORRIBLE, AREN'T YOU?
THEN WE'LL CRY FOR YOU.
BECAUSE YOU CRIED FOR US...


CALL US IF YOU WANT TO DIE.
WE'LL KILL YOU WHILE YOU'RE STILL HUMAN.

GOODBYE...
バタン!...
HMPH.
WHAT A WONDERFUL LIFE...
RIGHT, DAD? MOM...?

WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST LET ME REST IN PEACE?
MA... MAKO.
DON'T BE SO DOWN, CHIAKI.

HOW SAD YOU KILLED YOUR PARENTS AND NOW YOU'RE IN SHOCK.
BUT I HAD NO CHOICE! THEY WERE INSANE... BOTH OF THEM...!
17 YEAR-OLDS ARE SO SCARY LATELY.
NO! YOU'RE WRONG!
BUT WITH THIS, THEIR DESIRE MAY BE FULFILLED.
THEY'RE PROBABLY HAPPY THAT THEY THEMSELVES BECAME SACRIFICES.
STOP IT! I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER!
WHAT THEY WANTED WASN'T REVENGE, BUT RESURRECTION...
...OF THEIR RAPED AND MURDERED DAUGHTER!


...raped me in the condo's garage and...
I was lonely and...the guy I went out with...
...no one came for me...!
...no matter how loud I screamed help...
No one...!

CHIAKI!
WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?!
...they discovered my cold body.
Then, when my parents came home late...

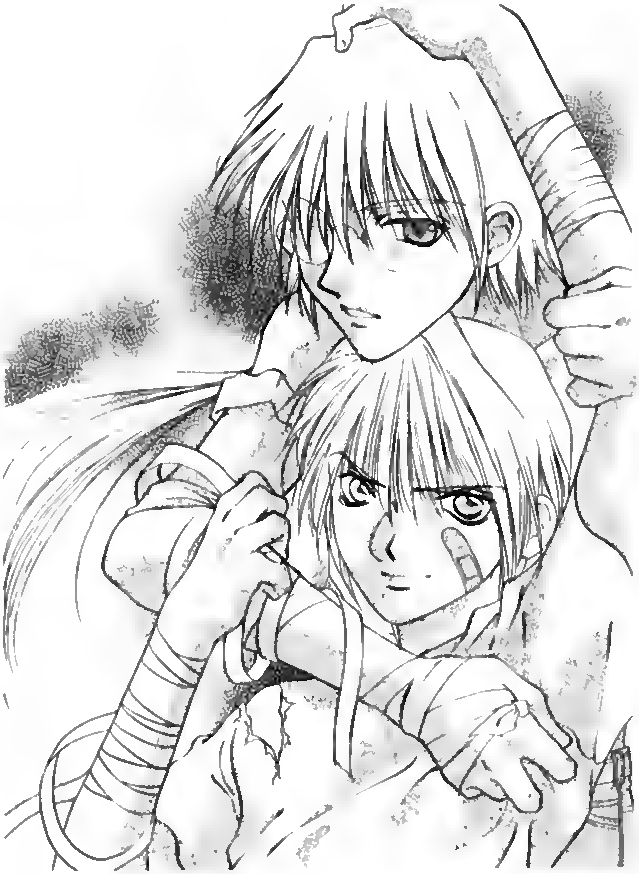
THAT VOICE...
GIVE US OUR DAUGHTER BACK!
WE MOVED HERE... BECAUSE WE THOUGHT YOU'D BE HAPPY!
WE WORKED SO LONG AND HARD FOR THIS HOME
CURSE THIS PLACE!
MY DAUGHTER DIED SO NEAR TO EVERYONE!
DIDN'T ANYONE HEAR YOU SCREAM FOR HELP?
CHIAKI!
CHIAKI...
We'll do anything to get you back
It doesn't matter what form, please come back
We want another chance!

I SHALL FULFILL IT...!
URGH?!
Am I giving birth...?
AH...H...

YOU HAVE INHERITED THE RITUAL. THERE WERE FIVE SACRIFICES.
CONGRATULATIONS. YOU WILL BE BORN, CHAU.
FROM JUST A CORPSE TO SOMETHING OTHER THAN HUMAN.
WE WILL MEET AGAIN.
This thing inside my stomach...
That was "me"?
The fetus without a head...!
What's going to grow in place of the head?
Not human...
...a monster!
AAAHHH!

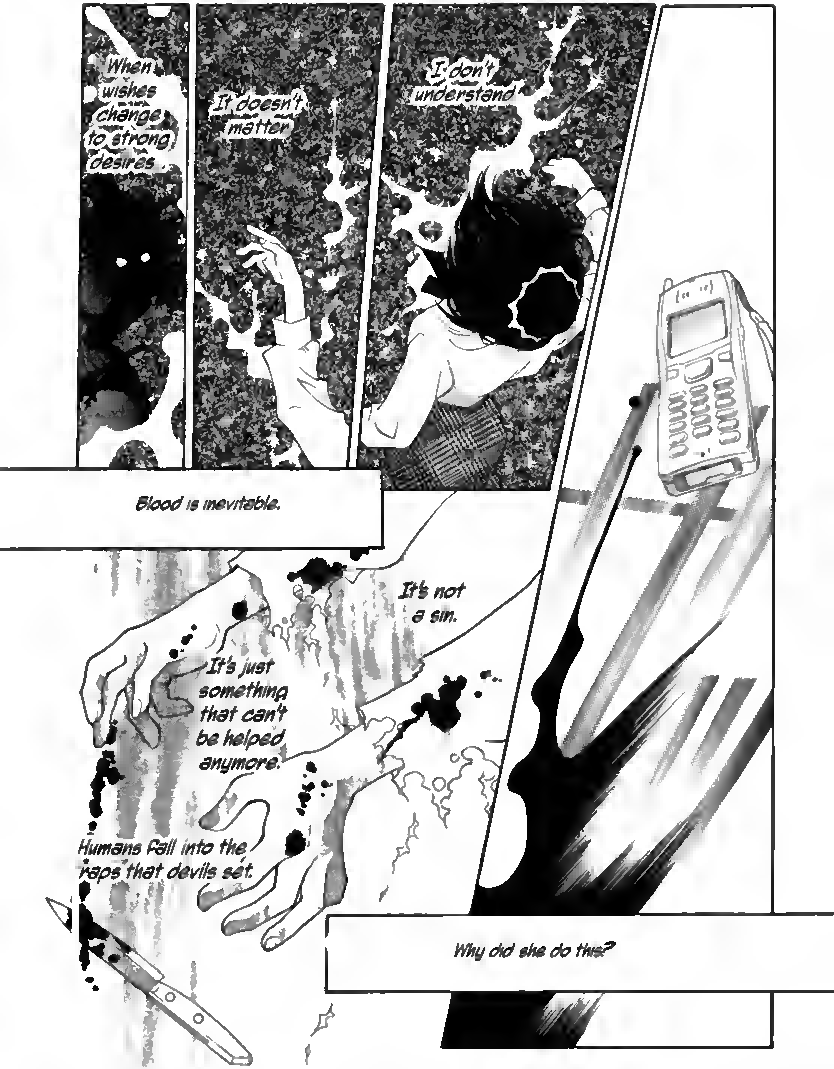
I have to stop it.
I can't give up.
I can't move...
I can't even kill myself!
REN!
RAI!
MMPH...
URGH....
Someone kill me... please.
This is something that must not be born.
This is my life, you know!

Don't worry.
For as much as you've suffered...
...we'll cry for you



Diabolo
Reincarnation Ritual I

I'm Falling
What was my initial wish?..
Why did it turn out like this...
EEEE!
HELP! SAVE ME! SHE-SHE... SUDDENLY STARTED ATTACKING WITH A KNIFE...
EEK!
Y-YES, HER NAME IS—

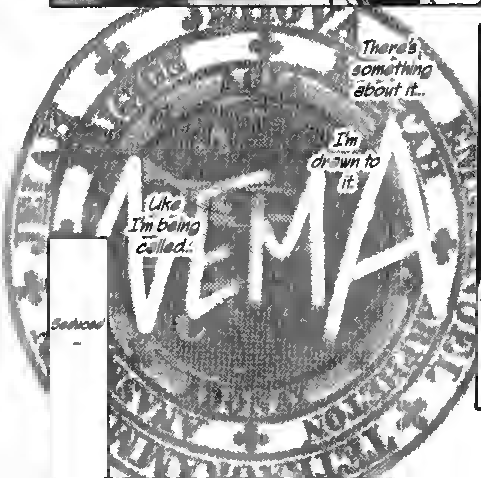

When wishes change to strong desires...
It doesn't matter
I don't understand
Blood is inevitable.
It's not a sin.
It's just something that can't be helped anymore.
Humans fall into the traps that devils set.
Why did she do this?

So that
I may exist!
HEY, DID YOU SEE THIS MONTH'S COMIKURI?
I SAW! I SAW! ARISA WAS IN IT, WASN'T SHE?
Comikuri
!

A STAR MIGHT BE BORN IN THIS VERY SCHOOL!
MORNING, ARISA!
I SAW THIS MONTH'S BOOK! CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING MISS COMIKURI!
QUIT EXAGGERATING, YOU GUYS.
すごーい
BUT THIS TIME, THEY WANT ME TO DO A SHOOT FOR A PHOTO SPREAD.
I AM PRETTY LUCKY, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF.
Pretty Arisa...
She's so lucky. Everything good happens to her.
It must be fate... I ought to give it up.

I want to be like Arisa. Everyone does.
OH DEAR.
WHOSE BOOK IS THIS?
I DON'T KNOW.
IT'S PROBABLY HIROM'S.
YOU KNOW, THAT GIRL WHO ALWAYS LOOKS DEPRESSED. YOU'D HARDLY NOTICE HER IF YOU WEREN'T LOOKING FOR HER.
IT'S HORRIBLE OF ME TO SAY, BUT SHE'S LIKE THE TOTAL OPPOSITE OF ARISA, ISN'T SHE?
17 YEARS-OLD.
YOUTH.
A MAGICAL TIME.

ALL LIES...
はっ
AVEMA
What's this?
How did I get here?
.....


There's something about it..
I'm drawn to it.
AVEMA
Like I'm being called..
Seduced...

But
What is this weird greeting?
Are these words in blood?
IT COULDN'T BE, HA!?

YOU CAN'T.
NE...

DID YOU WRITE THIS?
Holy words?
HOLY WORDS CAN HAVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS WHEN READ BACKWARDS.
BE CAREFUL.
YOU READ THAT BACKWARDS, YOU KNOW.

NOPE.
I FOUND IT JUST NOW, TOO.
NORMAL PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO READ THESE. THAT'S QUITE REMARKABLE OF YOU.
IT WAS... NOTHING, REALLY. A MISTAKE.
AFTER ALL, I'M NOT REALLY GOOD AT ANYTHING.
WHY?
Not like Arisa.
WHAT?
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GIVEN UP ON EVERYTHING FROM THE START.

BE CAREFUL
IT'S EASY FOR THEM TO TARGET PEOPLE LIKE YOU
HEY...!
RAI.
IS SHE SUSPICIOUS?
SHOULD WE KEEP AN EYE ON HER FOR A WHILE?
.....

I, for one, hope that we don't meet her here again.
She reminds me of how I used to be.
Amen..
NOT YET...AT LEAST NOT RIGHT NOW.
SHE'S JUST A SHEEP THAT'S STRAYED FROM THE HERD.
SHOW ME.
What is it that I can do..?
Please tell me..!
TEACH ME. TEACH ME. TEACH MEEE.
HIROMI?
TURN OFF THE COMPUTER! IT'S TIME TO GO TO SLEEP!

What could I do to get into that circle...?
SO DO YOU SURF THE NET, ARISA?
I SUPPOSE. ESPECIALLY CHATS.
UH...
ME, TOO...

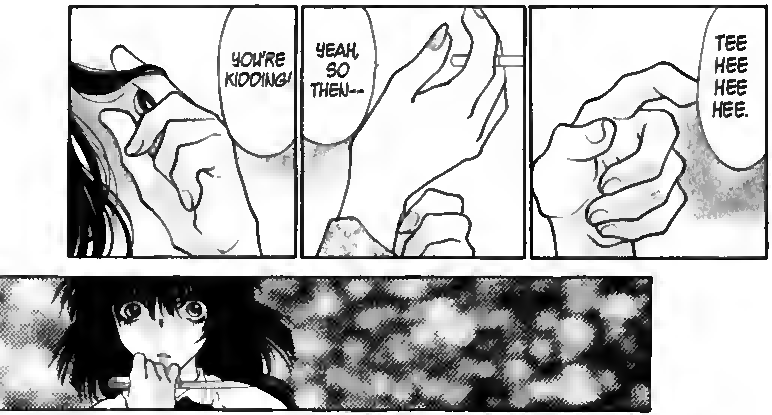
My life's worthless. I want to die already
What are you saying?
You should treasure your life.
Don't be stupid

There's no such thing as a wish that won't come true.

All you need is to make an effort.

What you need is someone else's pain.

First, start with someone's torn nail.



HEY, YOU OKAY? YOU'RE PALE. LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST.

I'M SORRY!
WHAT'S WRONG? WHAT DID I DO?
.....
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, RAI?
IT'S ABOUT THE TIME THAT THINGS START TO SMELL LIKE DIABOLO.
Me, I...
...I'm stupid.
I shouldn't believe in things like that from a chat room.
I could get in trouble for something like this.
Besides, how could that other person know what I want or need?

MY HAND! HELP SOMEONE, PLEASE! CALL AN AMBULANCE!

I know what I'm to do now.
I need to offer this raw nail.
My desire is—
VEMA
I want to be like Arisa.
I want to be her friend.
Arisa!

HIROMI! PLEASE GET UP!!!
YOU SPEND ALL NIGHT ON THAT DAMN COMPUTER!
HMM...
I want to be beautiful...

I BELIEVE THAT YOU WILL HELP! WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?
I'LL DO WHATEVER YOU SAY.
Offer the hair from someone's head
HIROMI?
YOU HAVEN'T LEFT YET. HAVE YOU? WHAT ABOUT BREAKFAST..?
YOU SPEND TOO MUCH TIME ON THAT COMPUTER. I MEAN, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING?
OH NO.. THE COMPUTER'S BROKEN, ISN'T IT?
I WONDER IF THE COMPUTER SHOP ON THE CORNER CAN FIX IT?
WHEN'S ARISA'S SHOOT FOR THE PHOTO SPREAD?
LET'S TAG ALONG. THERE MIGHT BE A JUICY OFFER, YOU KNOW?

MM-HM...
YOU'RE ALWAYS SAYING THAT. SEE YA!
AT LEAST MY HAIR IS BETTER THAN ARISA'S!
TAKE HA BREAK!
TO FULFILL MY DREAM...
ガタ
WHAT I WANT IS SOMEONE ELSE'S PAIN. SOMEONE ELSE'S SCREAMS. SOMEONE ELSE'S MISERY.
EEK!
WHO?

It's worth it if I can get closer to Anna.
My life will change. I just know it!
She'll be all right. Nothing a little ibuprofen won't help!
AND THEN BLOOD AND FLESH.
HEY, LITTLE SHEEP.

GET OUT OF MY WAY.
WHA...WHAT IS IT?
TSK, TSK. LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BECOME CORRUPT.
WHATEVER YOU THINK IS GOING TO HAPPEN ISN'T SOME KIND OF BLESSING, OR LUCK.
...WITH THE DIABOLO.
OH...?
NO. IT'S JUST A TRANSACTION...

AH...
DON'T GET IN MY WAY!
LEAVE ME ALONE!
TRY AS YOU MIGHT...
..YOU CAN'T HURT ME WITH YOUR HUMAN STRENGTH.
I SERVE AS THE SHIELD.
AND IM THE SWORD.
BEST FOR YOU TO GO HOME. YOU DON'T WANT TO BECOME SOME PATHETIC LITTLE MONSTER.

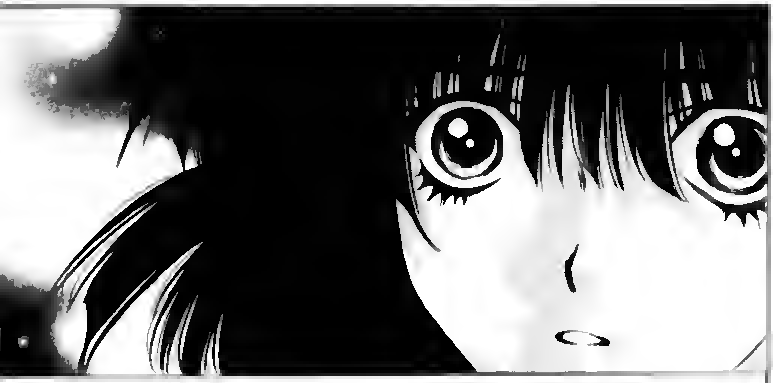
DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO! GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY!
I'M GOING TO CHANGE THINGS. I'VE FOUND A WAY!
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS DO WHAT IT TELLS ME!
SOMETIMES THEY JUST DON'T GET IT UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE.
WELL, WELL. YOU KNOW WHAT I ALWAYS SAY, RAI...
I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS, NOT ONE BIT.
EE...

YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU?
ぺたぺた...
YOU'RE NOT HUMAN...
THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU SHOULDN'T DABBLE WITH.
THEN, I'LL BE MISERABLE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, HUH?

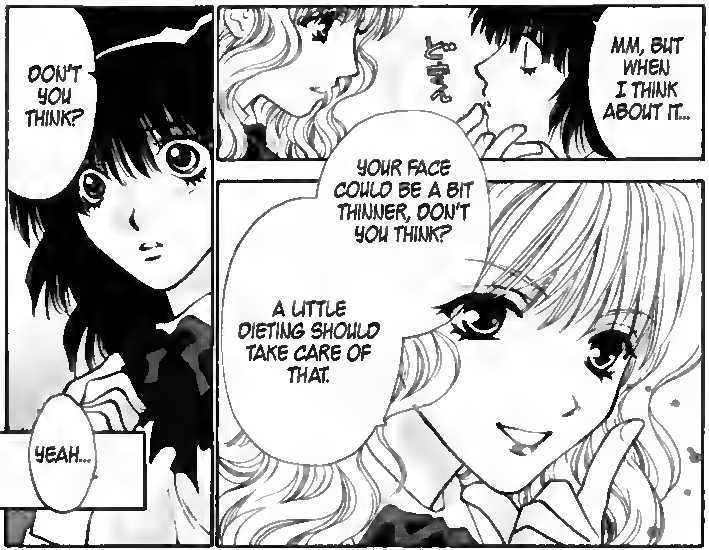
THE FACT THAT YOU CAN STILL ASK YOURSELF WHETHER YOU'RE MISERABLE OR NOT MEANS YOU'RE STILL CAPABLE OF BEING HAPPY
I WISH YOU WOULD REALIZE THAT.
I'LL PRAY FOR YOUR HAPPINESS.
Amen.
AMEN.

きゃはは…
All I wanted was to be liked by Ariea.
I just wanted to laugh with her.
To the extent that I'd listen and obey those ominous words.
But, there's no hope against a trap by a devil.
What a nightmare.
HIROMI?

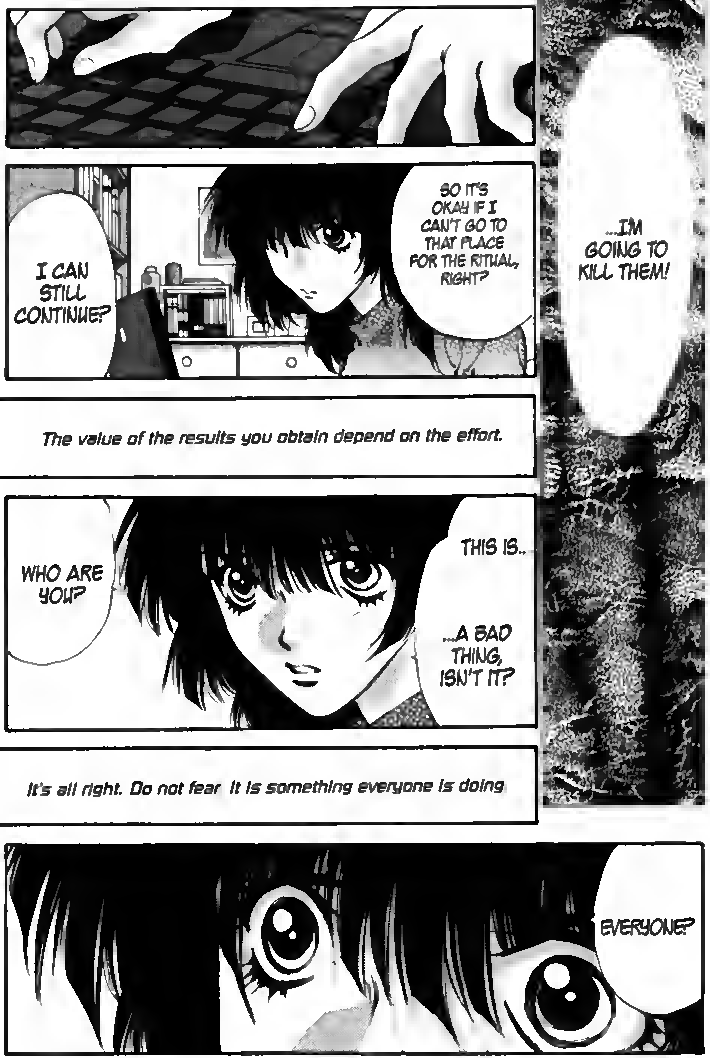
YES?
WOULD YOU MIND COMING WITH ME TO MY PHOTO SHOOT?
MY OTHER FRIEND CAN'T GO ANYMORE.
W...WHY SOMEONE LIKE ME?
This was the first time I'd ever talked to her.
I'VE GOT TO SAY, YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL LATELY.



SEE? YOUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN REWARDED.


DON'T YOU THINK?
YEAH...
MM, BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT...
YOUR FACE COULD BE A BIT THINNER, DON'T YOU THINK?
A LITTLE DIETING SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THAT.

SURE... I MEAN, A LITTLE EFFORT NEVER HURT.
WHAT THE HELL? WHY IS HIROMI TAKING MY PLACE WITH ARISA?!
WELL, YOU DID GET A CHUNK OF HAIR PULLED OUT BY SOME CRAZED GIRL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY HAVEN'T CAUGHT THE STUDENT YET.
MY BEAUTIFUL HAIR! HOW DARE SHE?
WHEN THEY FIND WHOEVER DID IT...

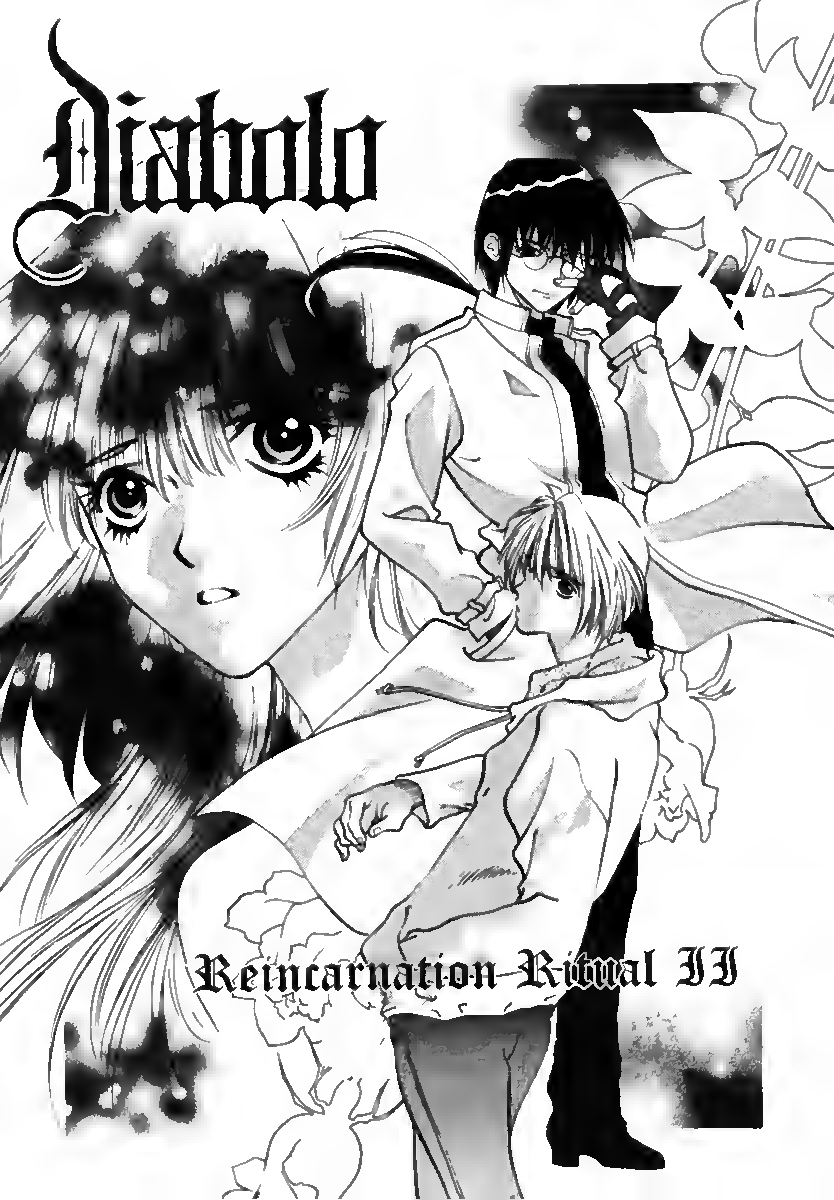

...I'M GOING TO KILL THEM!
SO IT'S OKAY IF I CAN'T GO TO THAT PLACE FOR THE RITUAL, RIGHT?
I CAN STILL CONTINUE?
The value of the results you obtain depend on the effort.
THIS IS..
...A BAD THING, ISN'T IT?
WHO ARE YOU?
It's all right. Do not fear. It is something everyone is doing.
EVERYONE?

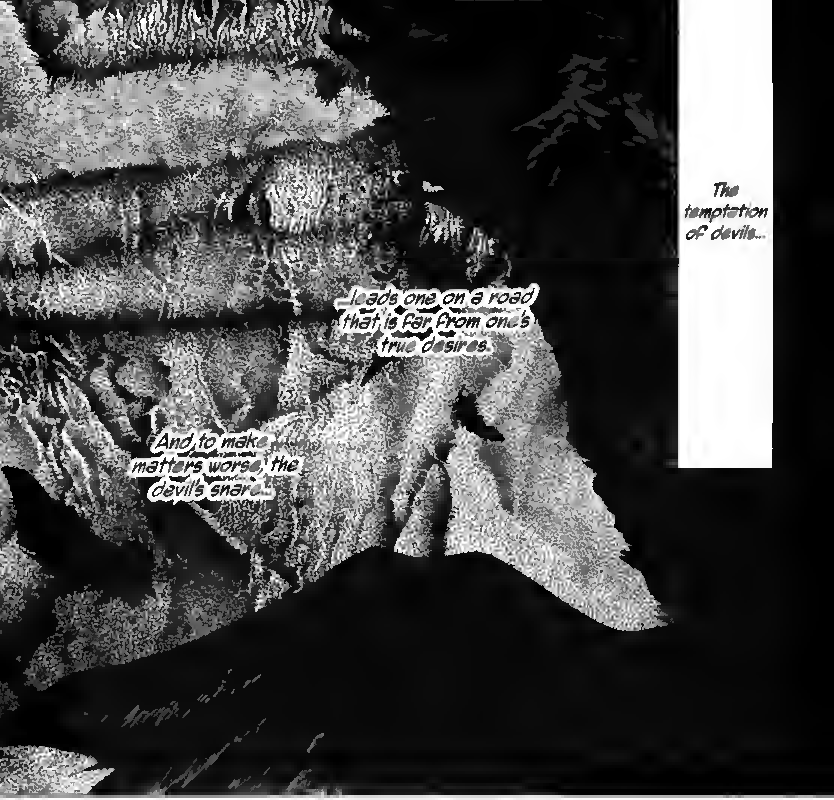
Shall I tell you the story of the boys who obtained power in the same fashion?
Boys...?
The crime involving the young boys from ten years ago
WHAT ARE YOUR NAMES?
WHAT DO YOU DESIRE?
COME HERE, CHILDREN. WHAT ARE YOU CRYING FOR?
WHICH BOYS?
WHAT...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
The missing girl.

Their young wish...
I'M KAI...
REN.
WE WANT TO BE STRONG.
SO WE CAN PROTECT THE PEOPLE WE LIKE.
WE'RE AFRAID THE GIRL WE TREASURE WILL DIE.
I SHALL SAVE THIS GIRL.
NOW, BRING HER HERE.
The mysterious ritual.
I SHALL GRANT YOUR DESIRE.

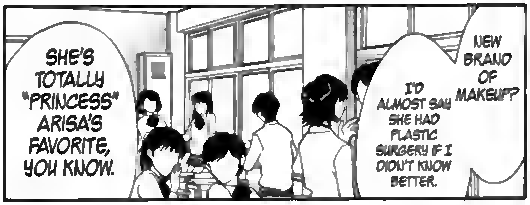
WHAT IS IT, RAI? WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU? THAT GIRL'S OKAY NOW, RIGHT?
THIS OMINOUS POWER...
...YOU KNOW, THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO'D RISK THEIR LIVES FOR IT.
MAUBE
HMM.
AS IF A DEVIL WOULD REALLY MAKE A WISH COME TRUE.
BUT THEY SET SO MANY TRAPS.
WE SHOULD KNOW.
AT LEAST WE SAVE OTHERS WITH THIS UNWANTED EVIL POWER WE'VE RECEIVED.
WE TRY TO STOP THE SHEEP...

HEH, HEH...
...FROM FALLING INTO THE HANDS OF THE DEVIL. WE TRY.
THEY'RE JUST LIKE ME, AREN'T THEY...?
THE BOYS...


Diabolo
Reincarnation Ritual II


The temptation of devils...
Leads one on a road that is far from one's true desires.
And to make matters worse, the devil's snare...

HEY, HEY! HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THOSE WEIRD MESSAGES ON THE NET?
WHAT'S THAT? ANOTHER URBAN LEGEND?
SPARE ME YOUR TALL TALES! BY THE WAY, HIROMI... YOU'VE GOTTEN SO PRETTY, LATELY.


NEW BRAND OF MAKEUP?
I'D ALMOST SAY SHE HAD PLASTIC SURGERY IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER.
SHE'S TOTALLY "PRINCESS" ARISA'S FAVORITE, YOU KNOW.

HIROMI! LET'S GO! WE'LL BE LATE!

...comes on the 18th year.

RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
WOW. YOU'RE BOTH FABULOUS.
THE CAMERA ABSOLUTELY LOVES YOU. YES!

Just a bit of effort.
TEE HEE HEE...
IT'S SOMETHING... THAT EVERYONE'S DOING, YOU KNOW.
IT'S STRANGE. REALLY, YOU LOOK SO PRETTY ALL OF A SUDDEN.
HIROMI.
!
DOES IT STILL BOTHER YOU, RAI?
SLIGHTLY, YOU KNOW... I GET A BAD FEELING.
I CAN'T FIND ANY MORE CLUES IN THIS PAPER.
THOUGH THERE'RE A LOT OF PURSE SNATCHERS AND THIEVES.

IT'S NOT POISONED OR ANYTHING.
DON'T LOOK SO WORRIED. WE'RE COMRADES, AREN'T WE?
LUNCH?
COMRADES?
YOU DESIRED SOMETHING, DIDN'T YOU?
SOMETHING FROM THE DEVIL?
YOU GOT THOSE POWERS, RIGHT? BY SACRIFICING SOMETHING.

Ren...
Let's save Mio together, the two of us. A nice person showed me how to do it.
With this we can be stronger.
We can protect Mio.
I KNOW WHAT YOU OFFERED.
A LITTLE GIRL.

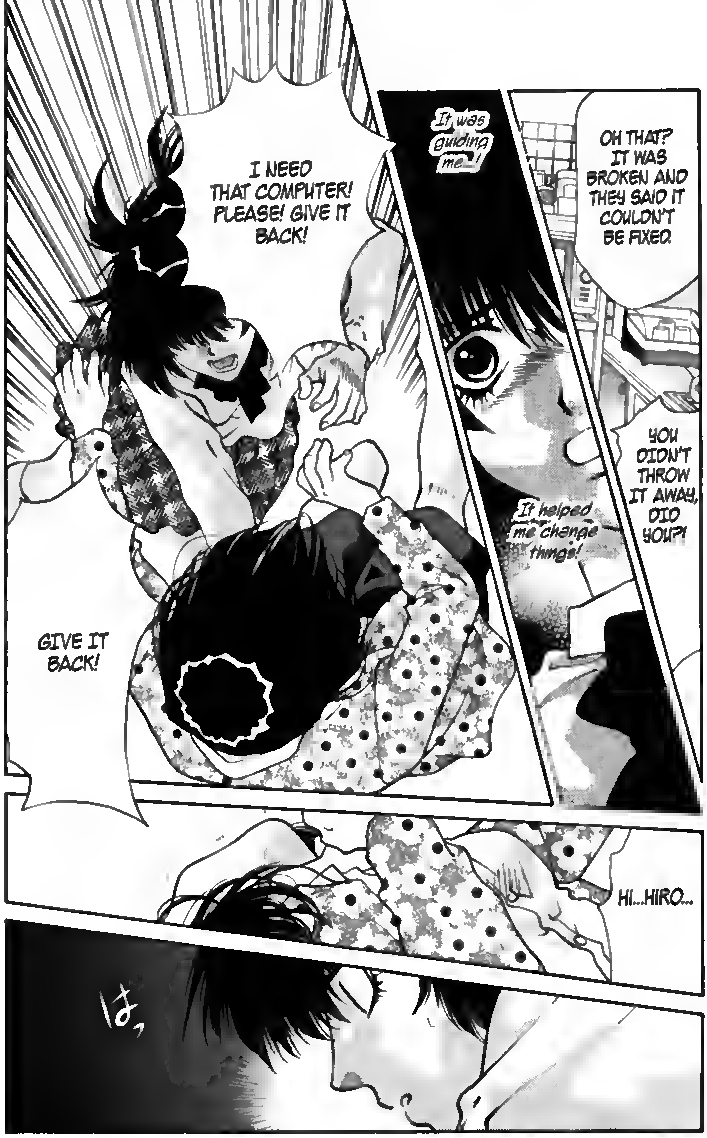
DON'T, REN!
COUGH! COUGH!
THIS GIRL IS STILL HUMAN!
SHE HASN'T COMPLETELY FALLEN.
FALLEN?
DOES THAT MEAN MY WISH WILL BE GRANTED?
WONDERFUL.
YOU...!
YOU REALLY DO REMIND ME OF MYSELF.
ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING... ACTING LIKE YOU'VE GIVEN UP ON IT ALL. BUT IN TRUTH--- YOU'RE GREEDY... YOU WANT EVERYTHING.
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING. SOON, THE PEOPLE YOU'VE HURT WILL RECOVER.

AND THEN WHATEVER YOU HAVE WILL DISAPPEAR.
YOU'RE NOT SO PRETTY INSIDE RIGHT NOW.
REN..
RAI, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT GIRL...
REN.
I'M SORRY.
HEY, ENOUGH ALREADY! TURN AROUND!
I GOT YOU INTO THIS.

What jerks!
Who do they think they are? When they're doing the same thing as me?!
I won't let them get in my way.
It's all right. See, if I close my eyes...
...those bloody words are in my head.
I BROUGHT YOU TO DIABOLO.

HIROMI!
GREAT NEWS! THEY WANT US FOR A SPECIAL ON YOUNG LADIES THIS TIME!
YOU'RE KIDDING... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
THE SHOOT IS NEXT WEEK.
I WON'T LET YOU BEAT ME.

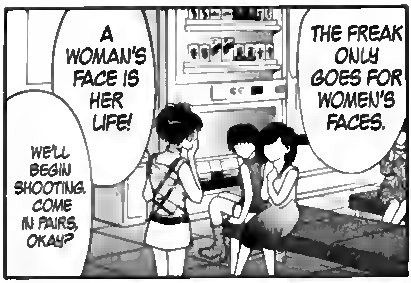
It's not like I want to compete with Arisa.

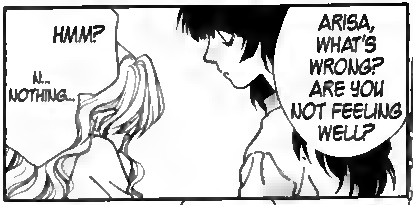

OH THAT? IT WAS BROKEN AND THEY SAID IT COULDN'T BE FIXED
It was guiding me!
YOU DIDN'T THROW IT AWAY, DID YOU?!
It helped me change things!
I NEED THAT COMPUTER! PLEASE! GIVE IT BACK!
GIVE IT BACK!
HI...HIRO...
Ah,

Someone else's pain!
YOU USED TO BE SUCH A GENTLE, GOOD GIRL...!
YOU'VE CHANGED..!
SHUT UP!
NAG! NAG! NAG!
I've finally gotten to be friends with Arisa...
What should I do?
What, do I need to do?
What should I do next?
Oh yes!

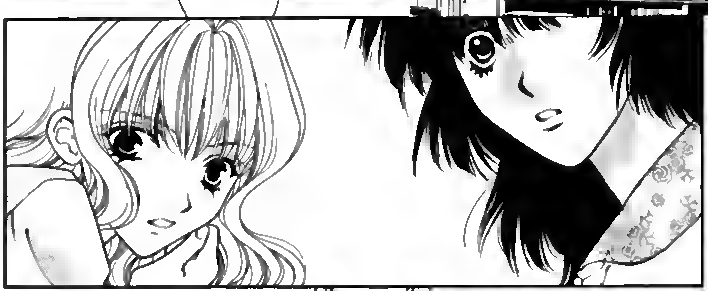
AGH... HELP M-ME!
NO...
PLEASE DON'T HURT ME. IF IT'S MONEY YOU WANT...YOU CAN HAVE EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!
!
ナニ?
HEY! YOU COULDN'T BE...
YOU SURE ARE VIOLENT FOR A PURSE-SNATCHER.

WAIT!
SHE GOT AWAY!
THE RITUAL WASN'T DISRUPTED AFTER ALL!
THAT UNIFORM...!


A WOMAN'S FACE IS HER LIFE!
THE FREAK ONLY GOES FOR WOMEN'S FACES.
WE'LL BEGIN SHOOTING. COME IN PAIRS, OKAY?


HMM?
ARISA, WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
N... NOTHING...

ARISA?



I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE WAS A ROBBERY IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD LAST NIGHT.
I SAY IT'S DEFINITELY A PERVERT!
Was it really that girl ...?

IT'S YOU, ISN'T IT? IT'S ARISA, AFTER ALL! YES. I COULD NEVER FORGET THAT VOICE.
WE WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL TOGETHER. I CAME HERE BECAUSE MY PARENTS TRANSFERRED TOO.
AH!
?
Arisa?
BUT EVEN SO, YOU'VE CHANGED, HAVEN'T YOU? YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT. ALMOST LIKE ANOTHER PERSON, AREN'T YOU?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE PLASTIC SURGERY, DID YOU?

え…？
Giggle
GAWD. YOU WERE SO UGLY IT WAS HARD NOT TO PICK ON YOU.
I REMEMBER WHEN YOU TOOK A YEAR OFF FROM SCHOOL AND THEN TRANSFERRED... JUST LIKE THAT! EVERYONE WAS SO RELIEVED!
HEY! STOP SAYING SUCH MEAN THINGS!
CLUNK
HMM, BUT OBVIOUSLY YOU WEREN'T JUST "TAKING A BREAK" IT WAS A "METAMORPHOSIS"
SO, AREN'T YOU KIND OF CHEATING? BEING WITH THE REAL BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE, HERE?

ARISA...
HIROMI, CARRYING SOMETHING LIKE THIS...? THAT'S A BIT DANGEROUS, ISN'T IT?
SIGH. IT'S TRUE...I TOOK A YEAR OFF FROM SCHOOL BECAUSE I WAS SO PICKED ON, YOU KNOW...
SEE?
IT WAS JUST BEFORE YOU TURNED 18, I THINK.
WELL, I HAVEN'T HAD PLASTIC SURGERY OR ANYTHING. NEVER UNDER THE KNIFE. NOT LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE!

EEK!
URGH...
THIS IS HOW I BECAME BEAUTIFUL.
HEH, HEH, HEH.
I JUST ASKED.

ALL I WANTED WAS TO BE SO BEAUTIFUL THAT EVERYONE WOULD BOW DOWN BEFORE ME!
キャー!
AAAH!!
HELP! SAVE ME! THERE'S A CRAZY GIRL WITH A KNIFE!
Who did this...?

This is Arisa?
It was...
NO..
ARISA...
I admired her...
...a...
...devil.
I BECAME CALM DOWN BY NOW.
MORE! MORE! MORE! MORE~!!
!
AHHH...
...YES...
HEE... HEE, HEE... HA HA HA.
IT'S NOT ENOUGH ANYMORE. I WANT TO SLICE THEM TO PIECES.
MORE.

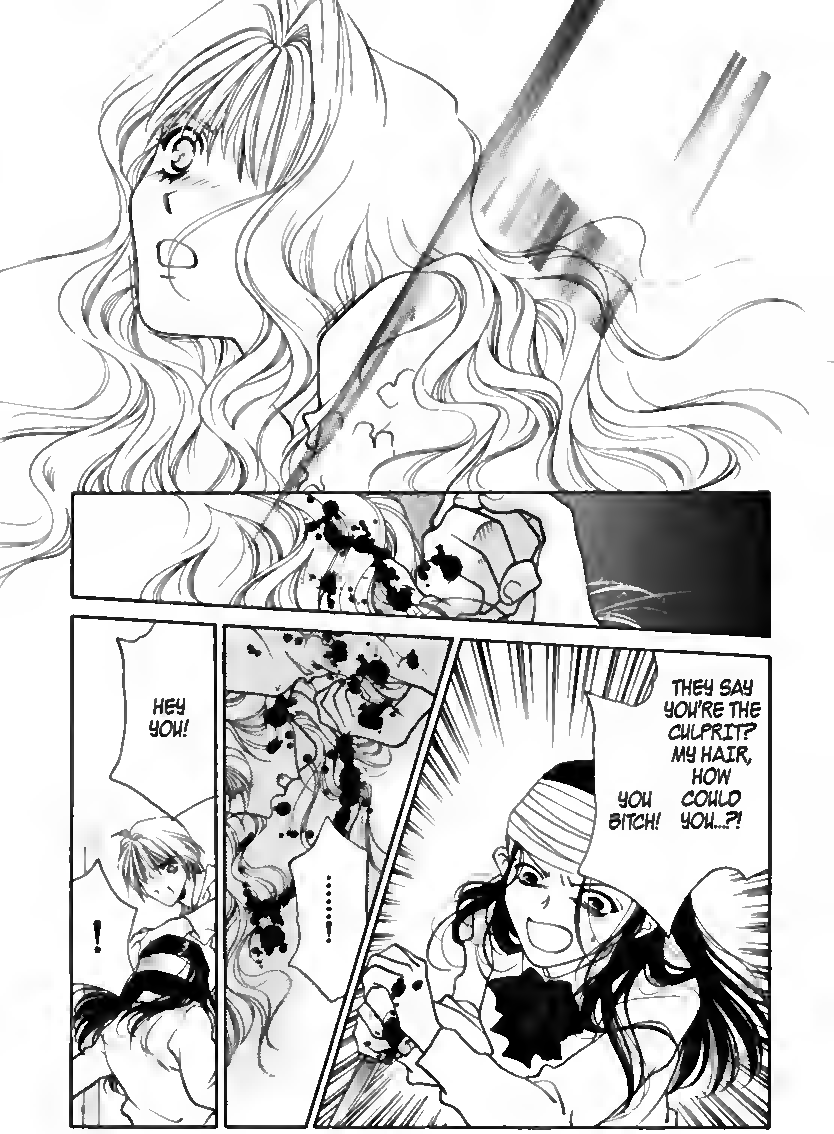
カラ

THAT WOUND ON HER ARM. SHE'S THE PURSE-SNATCHER. I TOTALLY THOUGHT IT WAS HIROMI...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
SHE'S BEEN ON A SLOW PATH TO DESTRUCTION. HARD TO FIND.
BUT SHE'S REACHED THE LIMIT.
SHE'S NOT HUMAN!!

ARISA! DUCK!
!!

DAMN!
WAIT! STOP!
EVEN THOUGH YOU BOTH HAVE SOLD YOUR SOULS! EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE THE SAME AS HER!
WHAT IS IT?!
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL HER, RIGHT? WITH YOUR POWER!
IT IS BECAUSE WE'RE THE SAME THAT WE MUST SAVE HER!
THOSE WHO HAVE COMPLETELY FALLEN INTO THE HANDS OF THE DEVIL LOSE SANITY AT 17 AND BECOME MONSTERS AT 18!
IM GOING AHEAD, RAI.
AT LEAST FOR NOW, WHILE WE'RE STILL HUMAN.
THEN...

...DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME--
WHEN THE TIME COMES, WILL YOU KILL US, LITTLE SHEEP?
THEN, YOU GUYS WILL ALSO...?
WE...


THEY SAY YOU'RE THE CULPRIT? MY HAIR, HOW COULD YOU...?!
YOU BITCH!
.....!
HEY YOU!
!

LET GO! SHE'S THE BAD ONE!
SHE PULLED OFF MY HAIR ALONG WITH MY SCALP!
ARISA...!

I THOUGHT YOU WERE SO DIFFERENT FROM SOMEONE LIKE ME...LIKE I WAS ANOTHER SPECIES.
PLEASE, NO..
I ADMIRED YOU SO MUCH...
HI...
So alone...
We're so weak...you and I.
Cowards.
I WISH WE'D MET AND BECOME FRIENDS EARLIER...
BUT YOU SUFFERED JUST LIKE ME...?

ARISA!
WAIT!
HOLD ON!
...RO...MI.
ARI...

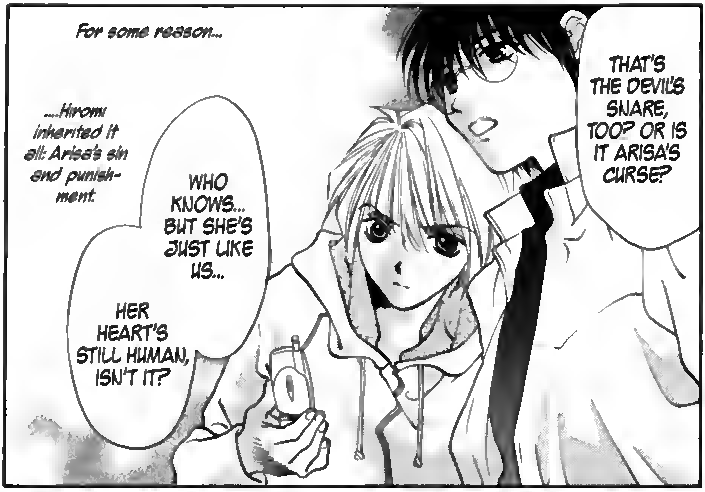
YOU SHOULD GO TO HELL, TOO.
HA HA. AS IF IT'D END LIKE THIS.
...THE SAME PAIN... YOU...
A...RISA.
YOU ONLY LIKED ME...
...BECAUSE I WAS PRETTY.
<?...
AFTER ALL...
...BIRDS OF A FEATHER...

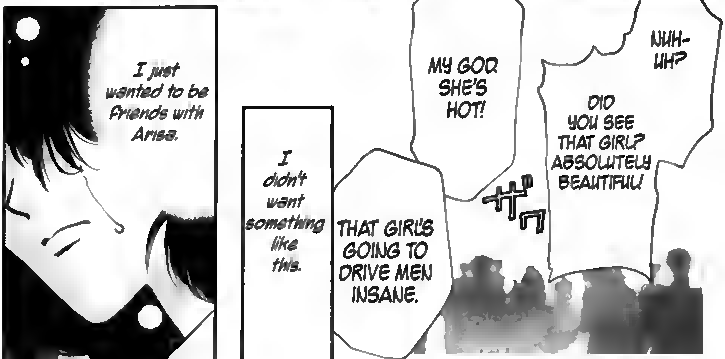
ピーポー
ピーポー…

HERE, TAKE THIS.
IM GLAD WE MET.

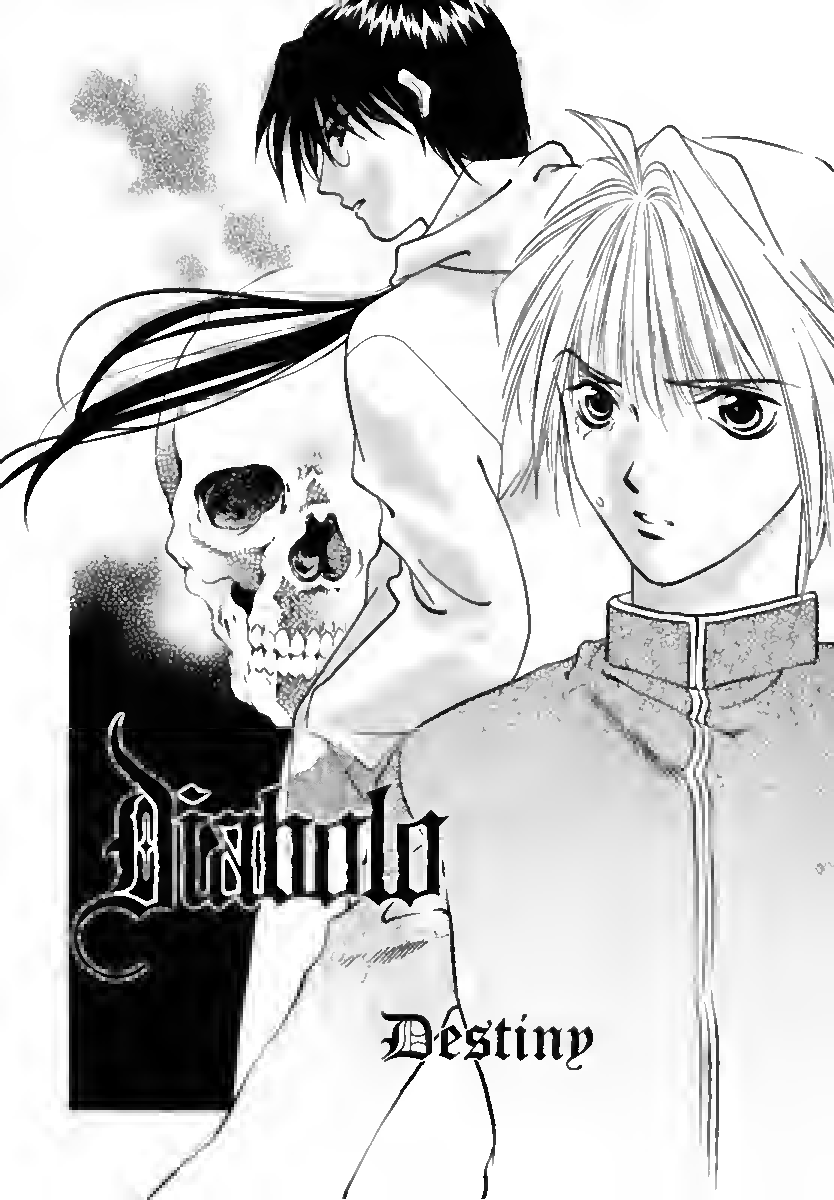
WHAT'S THIS?
IT'S NOT FOOD...
A CELL?
I INTEND TO. I HATE THE WAY I LOOK.
I WANTED TO SEE YOU GUYS BEFORE YOU LEFT.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO ISOLATE YOURSELF.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I FELL INTO A TRAP THAT WAS LAID ON THE NET...THE SAME AS ARISA.
I'LL BE YOUR EYES AND WARN YOU WHEN I SEE SOMETHING ON THE WEB.
I...WANT TO HELP YOU.
BEFORE I TURN 18.. AND BECOME A MONSTER.
YOU'RE STRONG, AREN'T YOU...? YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON INSIDE.
MY EYES HAVE BEEN OPENED..
You guys didn't wish for that kind of power.
You just wanted to help that little girl.
..and..
FAREWELL..
...there will come a day when you'll come to kill me, too.


For some reason...
THAT'S THE DEVIL'S SNARE, TOO? OR IS IT ARISA'S CURSE?
WHO KNOWS... BUT SHE'S JUST LIKE US...
HER HEART'S STILL HUMAN, ISN'T IT?
...Hiromi inherited it all: Arisa's sin and punishment.


I just wanted to be friends with Arisa.
I didn't want something like this.
THAT GIRL'S GOING TO DRIVE MEN INSANE.
MY GOD SHE'S HOT!
DID YOU SEE THAT GIRL? ABSOLUTELY BEAUTIFUL!
WHA-UH?

The devils' trap...
...steals what one truly desires...
Was I attracted to her because we had the same soul!?
Who will I pray to now?
Only to the Diabolo.


Diabulo
Destiny

BLOOD! BLOOD?!
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
I...I DON'T KNOW. WE WERE JUST... DOING AS WE WERE TOLD..
...WE JUST MADE A WISH.
WHERE IS MIO? WHAT HAPPENED? IS THIS... MIO'S BLOOD?
WHAT ABOUT MIO...?

I'VE GOT TO CALL THE POLICE!
THEY'VE KILLED A LITTLE GIRL!
THE YOUNGER KID IS FROM THE ORPHANAGE. THE OLDER KID IS FROM THE KIMURA FAMILY.
OH MY GOD. WHAT HAS MY CHILD DONE? COME HERE, REN!
NO. YOU'RE WRONG. I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING.
RAI!
REN!

Ten years later
.....
THAT KID NEVER TALKS.
WHAT A FREAK.
YO, TRANSFER STUDENT, WHY DON'T YOU EVER SAY ANYTHING?

WHAT A CREEPY LOOK!
CMON, PUNK.
LET'S GO!

He's huge...
W...WHAT IS IT? A HOMELESS GUY?
LET'S GO.

Splash!
...!
REN, YOU CAME HOME?
MAKE ME SOMETHING. MOM'S TIRED AND..

What is this power...? It's getting stronger and stronger...
If that weird guy didn't butt in and stop me...
What's the matter with me?
I don't have memories of when I was a kid.
I wonder if that has something to do with it after all?
shiver
It started when I turned 12.

カン
カン
カン
カン
カン

He's gone!
That guy... I've seen him before.
YO, REN!
WHO'S THAT GIRL?
MY COUSIN, MIO.
SHE'S LIKE MY LITTLE SISTER, YOU KNOW.
BUT I'M PROBABLY GOING TO THE ORPHAN-AGE.
I'M JUST STAYING AT REN'S HOUSE FOR NOW.
TO THE SAME ORPHAN-AGE AS ME? WHY?

MIO'S DADDA AND MAMA ARE VIOLENT. THEY'RE SCAAAARY.
THEY SAY THEY WANT MIO TO DISAPPEAR BECAUSE HER BODY'S WEAK AND SHE COSTS TOO MUCH MONEY.
I'LL PROTECT YOU! I'LL GET STRONG AND PROTECT YOU!
ME, TOO!
LEAVE IT TO US!
Because we'll protect you...
Rai...?
Mio is...?
Just now, was that a dream?
My past?

I'VE WORKED HARD TO PUT YOU THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL. HURRY UP AND FIND A JOB AND MAKE MY LIFE EASIER...
REN..?
WON'T YOU MAKE ME DINNER..?
Memories from when I was a child..?
clink
There's hardly any jobs...and she's always tired..
Ever since she got divorced she's been moving us around...like she's trying to hide from something
The past doesn't matter
As long as Mom's with me..

YO.
OH.
WHAT? YOU CAN TALK.
YOU....
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME?
YOU LOOK FAMILIAR...
YOU DON'T REMEMBER?

YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG, YOU KNOW.
MY MOM WON'T TALK ABOUT THE PAST.
I KNOW THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED WHEN I WAS A KID, BUT...
I'VE CAUSED HER NOTHING BUT TROUBLE FROM WAY BACK, SO...
I... IT'S JUST THAT MOM IS...
IT'S THE DEVIL'S FAULT.
HUH?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HM
THE DEVILS' SNARE... WE WERE EASILY CAUGHT BY IT.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING STRANGE ABOUT YOUR BODY? IT'S ABOUT TIME THINGS STARTED TO HAPPEN.
!
SORRY, BUT I'M IN A HURRY, SO--
MY NOSE IS QUITE ACCURATE AT SMELLING.
I SMELL BLOOD FROM YOUR BODY.
!
THE INJURIES ON YOUR BODY....
SHUT UP!

UH...
WHEN DID YOU NOTICE THAT POWER?
IS IT FOR THAT REASON THAT YOU DON'T FIGHT BACK AGAINST LESS-EXPERIENCED CLASSMATES?
IN THAT CASE, I'LL KICK YOUR ASS.
BUT... I DON'T WANT MOM TO KNOW.
I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE HER ANY MORE TROUBLE.
DOES IT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH MY CHILDHOOD?

COME WITH ME. I'LL EXPLAIN.
WE'RE CHANGING INTO SOMETHING THAT ISN'T HUMAN BECAUSE OF THE DEAL WE MADE WITH THE DEVIL.
I INTEND TO FIX MY TWISTED DESTINY WITH MY OWN HANDS.
DON'T YOU FEEL LIKE FIGHTING BACK AGAINST ALL OF THIS?
Together?

You murderer.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT... WHO IS THIS?
WHA... WHAT?
RRRRR
Your sins won't disappear even if you keep running away.
Your son is a murderer.
WHA--?
AAAHH H.....!!

SORRY, I...
I CAN'T GO AFTER ALL, RAI. I CAN'T JUST LEAVE MY MOM ALONE.
IM SORRY.
HUH.
I DON'T HAVE A FAMILY, SO...
It took ten years to find you.
OKAY, THEN. TAKE CARE.
Ran.
All I had was you.

ガラ
!
IT'S YOUR FAULT!
THEY FOUND OUT... THEY FOUND OUT AGAIN! WHEN I'VE BEEN RUNNING AWAY FOR TEN YEARS!
YOU DEVIL, YOU!
MO--
YOU DEVIL! DON'T ANSWER! DON'T SPEAK!
JUST SHUT UP!

IS EVERY MISTAKE A CHILD MAKES THEIR MOTHER'S FAULT?!
I'VE HAD STONES THROWN AT ME! DIVORCED! OSTRACIZED! THIS DAMNED LIFE!
NO! NO! NO MORE!!
MOM...
.....

MOM, I'M SORRY!
YOU CAN HIT ME...BUT...
...I'LL BE BY YOUR SIDE FOREVER!
...I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
REN...

WHEN DID YOUR VOICE CHANGE..?
YOU'VE BECOME BIGGER, HAVEN'T YOU? OOH.. YOU'VE STARTED TO LOOK LIKE YOUR FATHER.
MO...
.....
THAT'S RIGHT... I'LL HAVE YOU MAKE THINGS UP TO ME. COME HERE!

NOW...!
TURN ME BACK...
...INTO A WOMAN.
MOM...?
WHAT'S WRONG?! STOP!
HURRY!
MAKE LOVE TO ME!
NO...!

HOW DARE YOU DENY YOUR MOTHER...?
YOU'RE A DEVIL, AFTER ALL I'LL BE KILLED...!!!
IF I DON'T DO IT, I'LL BE KILLED! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?
Sorry.
I'm so sorry, Mom.
But all I wanted
just once...

...was for you to hold me gently.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE, AUNTY. VIOLENT AS USUAL, AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE BLOCKING THE MEMORIES, EH?
The scars all over his body...
...YOU! THE BRAT FROM THE ORPHANAGE!
IT'S YOUR FAULT, ISN'T IT?! I'LL KILL YOU WITH REN, TOO!
YOU...?

HEY... STOP IT, MOVE!
IT'S OKAY...
THIS IS MY SHARE OF THE PAIN THAT YOU'VE ENDURED UNTIL NOW, REN. THE SCARS I SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED.
...I'LL BECOME YOUR SHIELD!
FROM NOW ON, REN...
Ren, we're close friends...
...just like brothers.
I've been raised at an orphanage... you're my only family.

Rai!
STOP!
REN...
DO YOU REMEMBER ME...?
RAI! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

YEAH, AND ABOUT MIO, TOO.
WE...WERE LED BY SOMETHING STRANGE AND DID SOME KIND OF OMINOUS RITUAL!
SOMEONE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF US. TRICKED US. WHO WAS IT???
ピチャ…
Y...
YOU...
Gasoline?
MONSTER....
カチッ

MOM!
COME HERE... REN...
COME TO MOMMY...
I'LL HOLD YOU...

MOM!
IT'S NO GOOD, REN! SHE'S NO LONGER SANE!
BUT SHE'S MY MOM!
MOM...
DON'T COME NEAR ME, YOU DEVIL.
REN!

Mom....
Ren! What did you do?!
Give me back my life! Make it up to me!
I shouldn't have given birth to you!
I shouldn't have given birth to you!!
Dear..
Look at our beautiful son Isn't he cute?
I wonder if he'll protect me when he grows up?
I'm looking forward to it.

IT SEEMS THEY DON'T KNOW THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE...
THEY SAY THE BURNED CORPSE OF A WOMAN WAS FOUND.
AND THERE'S A MISSING PERSON.
I'VE MADE YOU WAIT...
..HAVEN'T I, RAI?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S MUCH TIME LEFT, YOU KNOW?
YOU SHOULD DO AS YOU LIKE...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

Even if I'm screaming...
Even if I'm hurt...
I'M GLAD I WAS FINALLY ABLE TO MEET YOU.
I'LL STAY WITH YOU UNTIL THE END
As long as I'm still living...
...I'll stand tall.
I WANT TO PROTECT SOMEONE.
I WANT TO SAVE SOMEONE.

To be continued in volume 2.

KINDLY LOOK UPON VOLUME 2, TOO!!

Moral

Co-authoring should not be done by two people who are both busy. We sisters are working hard while fighting (laughs) each time.

KEI KUSUNOKI

Root for Us! ♡

Even so, we've gotten pretty used to co-authoring work. Please treat us well from now on, okay? Also, come visit our homepage, too!

http://www.rgy1.1st.ne.jp/~k2office

The braid that was unpopular

Ren Life

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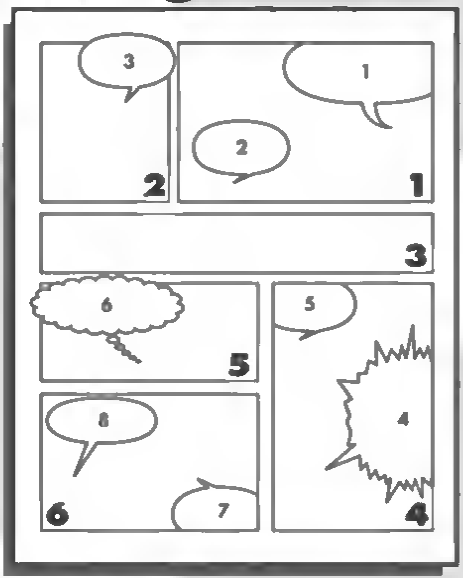

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Follow the diagram to see how its done ***Surf's Up!***

Diabolo 1

Something extra-wicked this way comes! Ren and Rai play with fire when they sell their souls to the demon Diabolo to save Ren's cousin. Diabolo gives Ren the power of ultimate offense and Rai the power of ultimate defense. However, those who fall into the Diabolo's trap start to go crazy at 17, and at age 18 they reach the point of no return...

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